

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2997

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW, UR

SUBJECT: KOHL VISIT TO THE USSR SEPTEMBER 22-30

REF: BONN 14616

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE SOVIETS HAVE PROMISED CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE HELMUT KOHL THAT HE WILL MEET WITH KOSYGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 22-30 VISIT. HE WILL ALSO VISIT THE KAMARIVER TRUCK PLANT. ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS REMAIN OPEN. KOHL'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS BELIEVE THAT THE HANDLING OF KOHL IN THE SOVIET MEDIA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY GENTLE AND EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO STAY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF COURTESY DURING THE VISIT.
END SUMMARY

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1. A CDU OFFICIAL WHO WILL ACCOMPANY CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR

CANDIDATE KOHL TO THE USSR TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 18 THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOW PROMISED KOHL HE WOULD MEET WITH KOSYGIN. OTHER APPOINTMENTS WILL NOT BE FIXED UNTIL KOHL AND HIS PARTY ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 22. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT KOHL DID NOT RULE OUT A MEETING WITH BREZHNEV BUT THAT WEST GERMAN SOVIET EXPERTS WHO BRIEFED KOHL BELIEVED THAT BREZHNEV'S HEALTH WAS BAD AND THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ACTIVE SINCE THE CSCE MEETING IN HELSINKI.

2. OUR SOURCE ADMITTED THAT KOHL EXPECTS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CRITICISM FROM THE SOVIETS DURING THE VISIT, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING CDU/CSU POLICIES ON CSCE AND THE VISIT OF CSU LEADER STRAUSS TO CHINA JUST BEFORE KOHL WENT TO MOSCOW. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT HE TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO CONVINCE SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN BONN THAT THE CDU AND CSU WERE NOT SO EFFICIENT THAT THE TIMING OF VISITS COULD BE COORDINATED.

3. KOHL'S ADVISERS DO NOT EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO GIVE KOHL AS ENTHUSIASTIC A WELCOME AS THEY GAVE WILLY BRANDT BUT POLITICALLY THEY FEEL A RESTRAINED BUT POLITE SOVIET RECEPTION MIGHT BENEFIT THE CDU IN THE FRG. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED IN THEIR PUBLIC CRITICISM OF KOHL (ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE CRITICISM THE SOVIET MEDIA REGULARLY HEAP ON FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS.) THEY EXPECT THE SOVIETS WILL STAY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF COURTESY DURING THE KOHL VISIT TO THE USSR.

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